

#12/C  
7-26-01  
R. Dunder

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

HAIR *et al.*

Group Art Unit: 2873

Appln. No: 09/261,221

Examiner: Lester, E.

Filed: March 3, 1999

Title: OPTICAL VEND-SENSING SYSTEM  
FOR CONTROL OF VENDING MACHINE

\* \* \* \* \*

July 25, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

FAX COPY RECEIVED  
JUL 25 2001  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2891

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly enter the following amended claims:

1. (Twice Amended) An optical vend-sensing system for control of a vending machine which has at least one mechanism arranged for initiating operation upon selection by a customer for vending an article into a vend space through which the article falls into a customer-accessible hopper, the vend space having a defined lateral width and a defined front-to-rear depth,